



State Representative Lile R. Gibbons

Dear Friends,

The 2006 legislative session for the most part was beneficial to Greenwich.

This year's transportation act, which I cosponsored, authorizes \$2.3 billion in bonding for projects of importance to the 150th district. They include: rehabilitating and acquiring more commuter rail passenger coaches; constructing or expanding stations in Stamford and Bridgeport to accommodate rail service and at least one other mode of transportation; expanding the Bridgeport Intermodal Facility to support high speed ferry service; and highway and traffic flow improvements on I-95.

An act I shepherded through the legislature helped keep Greenwich Safe Rides operating by exempting teenagers under 18 who volunteer for the program from a state law that prohibits them from driving between 12 a.m. and 5 a.m.

In addition, several grants were approved for Greenwich, including:

- \$4,882,000 in school construction reimbursement funding for the Hamilton Avenue School renovation project.
- \$500,000 for the renovation of the Greenwich Boys and Girls Club.
- \$358,603 in supplemental special education funding.
- \$323,207 for an addition and upgrades to the Byram-Shubert Library.

On a personal note, I was honored to be the recipient of an Age-wise Advocate Award from the Connecticut Commission on Aging and the Trail Champion of the Year Award from the East Coast Greenway Alliance.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you at our state legislature in Hartford.

Sincerely,

Lile R. Gibbons



Rep. Gibbons, center, joins Reps Livvy R. Floren and Claudia "Dolly" Powers, on Opening Day at the state House of Representatives earlier this year.

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Proudly Serving the 150th District
Greenwich ★ Connecticut



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2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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Rep. Gibbons debates a bill on the floor of the House of Representatives during the 2006 Legislative Session.

Protecting Your Interests

During the 2006 session, as always, I worked on behalf of the 150th District's families, children, seniors and taxpayers. I supported measures to spur economic growth, create jobs, ease traffic congestion, preserve the environment, and protect consumers.

Supporting Manufacturing

Connecticut manufacturers are struggling to remain competitive with their out-of-state counterparts. To help level the playing field, I cosponsored a law that exempts machinery and equipment from the property tax to strengthen our manufacturing sector and preserve and create thousands of jobs.

Encouraging Film Production in CT

To underscore the state's commitment to encouraging movie and digital media production in Connecticut, I cosponsored an act requiring the Commission on Culture and Tourism to implement new film and digital media tax credits and promote movie and digital media production and post-production here.

Fostering Technological Innovation

I supported legislation to promote research in the growing field of nanotechnology, a branch of engineering that deals with extremely small electronic circuits and mechanical devices designed and manufactured at the molecular level.

Nurturing Microbusinesses and New Companies

Under an act I cosponsored, the state will provide matching financial assistance for micro-businesses that receive funding through two federal programs, and venture capital for newly-established or expanding businesses that are in the early stages of developing new products and processes.

Office of the Business Advocate

An Office of the Business Advocate was established under a law I cosponsored. The office will contact micro and small businesses that could benefit from business assistance programs, provide information about the programs, and help businesses access them.

Recruiting the Best and the Brightest

I cosponsored an act that establishes a program to recruit eminent faculty and their research staff to the University of Connecticut and creates grant programs to repay student loans for engineers and people who hold specific doctoral degrees.



Representative Gibbons with John Toner, left, and Franklin Bloomer, right, at Greenwich Safe Cycling's "Ride for Greenwich" this spring.



Representative Gibbons and veterans from American Legion Post 29 get together on Memorial Day in Greenwich.

Encroachment on Open Space Land

To help preserve undeveloped acreage in Connecticut, I supported an act that prohibits anyone from encroaching on open space land owned by the state or a nonprofit land conservation organization without permission or legal authorization.

Protecting Long Island Sound

I voted for a law to encourage municipal wastewater treatment plants and private sector entities to reduce the amount of nitrogen they discharge into Long Island Sound.

Clean Cars Program

I cosponsored an act that establishes a greenhouse gas labeling program for new motor vehicles starting with 2009 models. The program will enable potential buyers to determine which cars are environmentally-friendly, and which ones are less so.



From left, Selectman Peter Crumbine, First Selectman Jim Lash, Rep. Gibbons, Selectman Penny Monahan and parade Grand Marshal Patrick Waide get together for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Greenwich earlier this year.

Breast Cancer Screening

I supported a law to require health insurers to provide added coverage for breast cancer screening if a woman is believed to be at increased risk for breast cancer because of family history, her prior breast cancer history, or other indications determined by her physician.

Supporting Children with Cancer

I cosponsored an act requiring health insurers and the HUSKY Plan to cover testing ordered by physicians for children with cancer to assess the extent to which chemotherapy or radiation treatment has caused cognitive or developmental problems.

Property Tax Relief for Seniors

Municipalities will be allowed to freeze property taxes for certain elderly persons under an act I cosponsored. To be eligible for the benefit, homeowners or their spouses must be age 70 or older, have lived in the state for at least one year, and meet the same income limits that apply to the existing state-reimbursed "circuit breaker" program.

Honoring Our War Dead

Under a new law I supported, both the state and national flags will be flown at half-staff (whenever the governor orders the state flag to be flown at half-staff) for the same amount of time to honor members of the armed services who die in the line of duty.

State Budget

I opposed the \$16 billion 2006 - 07 budget. It failed to repeal the tax on estates valued above \$2 million. The tax has encouraged many Fairfield County residents - especially those in the financial services industry - to leave Connecticut and move to states that do not have it or tax estates at significantly lower rates. The budget did nothing to address the repeal of the car tax as suggested by Governor Rell. It exceeded the governor's original proposal by \$16 million and did not provide comprehensive business tax relief that would have strengthened the economy and created more jobs for the people of Connecticut.



Rep. Gibbons, third from left, and Rep. Livvy Floren, center, participate in the Breast Cancer Alliance's 2006 "Walk for the Cure" in Greenwich in May.